

EXHIBIT 9 HUH  
DATE 2-6-09  
# 325



February 6, 2009

To: House Human Services Committee

From: Barbara Schneeman, AMPHO Legislative Committee Co-Chair

**RE: HB 325-- Assured coverage of colon cancer screening**

Dear Chairperson Arlene Becker & Committee Members:

The Association of Montana Public Health Officials (AMPHO) would like to express our support for HB 325 and thank Representative Sands for bringing it forward. AMPHO is an association representative of 36 Montana local health departments of all sizes from very rural to the seven biggest in the state.

AMPHO strongly supports H.B. 325 because it is a truly preventative measure that will help save lives as well as health care resources. Colon cancer screenings, in particular, are very accurate, and in fact, there is a 90% survival rate if colon cancer is detected at the earliest stage. Assuring that insurance plans cover these screenings will mean that more Montanans can afford them; without adequate coverage, these preventative procedures are simply cost prohibitive for many.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this bill.